26. (Amended) A method for detecting at least one ligand associated with multiple sclerosis, in a biological sample, characterized in that the biological sample is brought into contact with at least one polypeptide as defined in claim 19, and then the formation of a complex between said polypeptide and the ligand is detected.

27. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that the biological sample is in addition brought into contact with at least one polypeptide comprising at least one fragment of a protein chosen from proteins whose peptide sequence in the native state corresponds to SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No. 8 and SEQ ID No. 10 to SEQ ID No. 29 and the peptide sequences which exhibit at least 70% identity with any one of the peptide sequences SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No. 8 and SEQ ID No. 10 to SEQ ID No. 29, and the peptide sequences or the fragments of said sequences belonging to the same family of proteins chosen from Perlecan, the precursor of the retinol-binding plasma protein, precursor of the ganglioside GM2 activator, calgranulin B and saposin B.

28. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that said ligand is an antibody, a receptor, a substrate for enzymatic activity or an enzyme for which said polypeptide is a cofactor.

29. (Amended) A method for detecting at least one polypeptide as defined in claim 19, in a biological sample, characterized in that the biological sample is brought into contact with at least one ligand specific for said polypeptide, and then the formation of a complex between said polypeptide and said ligand is detected.

33. (Amended) A nucleotide fragment, characterized in that it encodes a polypeptide as defined in claim 19.